

NEWHOMES

Paris has a lot to offer

Plus, a river runs through it



MARTIN SLOFSTRA
EDITOR'S
NOTE

A curious thing happens when new home buyers come to visit the sales office of Riverside Paris, says Kathy Di Silvestro of Crystal Homes, one of the two builders involved in the project.

Of course, they come inside to look at the floor plans and check out the new models, but then they end up staying awhile.

They will sit on the banks of the Grand River and watch the canoes and kayaks go by, their kids will play

on the ample, open spaces and fields of this former golf course site, or they will use the existing trails to go for a hike.

And so, a visit to this new home site also offers an excellent chance to experience the nearby amenities.

As for Riverside Paris, it will consist of 140 new homes (plus or minus) which will be the first phase of a six-phase, 10-year build out brought to you by Fernbrook Homes and Crystal Homes.

There's an interesting blend of contemporary and classic designs, and quite the selection of models with sizes ranging from 1808 sq. ft. to 3457 sq. ft., and priced from \$619,900 to \$879,990.

Beyond that there is also the small town of Paris — considered to be one of the prettiest in Ontario — and fair to say, has been below the radar of new home buyers.

The crown jewel is the Grand River and the promise of riverside living. Key among the selling points is its



Right on the banks of the Grand River and on the site of a former golf course, The Paris Riverside sales office has itself become an attraction.



Relaxing and dining on a riverside patio is one of the many attractions offered in downtown Paris, Ont.



Paris, Ont has been called one of the prettiest towns in Canada.

close proximity to Kitchener-Waterloo (40 minutes), Cambridge (20 minutes), Hamilton (20 minutes) and Brantford (10 minutes).

But really as a small town, Paris stands on its own. The downtown area, with its Old Ontario character, is one of its key attractions and is only a five-minute drive or 20-minute walk from the new home site, says Di Silvestro.

Having myself walked around this former golf course and toured the downtown Paris area, I have to say it is also an interesting take on where new home site development is headed.

Some of the local golfers may beg to differ (Paris Riverside is being built on a 151-acre site that included the old Paris Grand Country Club which had been in 100 years of operation and closed in 2017) but building new homes on land formerly occupied by golf courses is a positive trend worth watching — if done right.

(The other example of this happening is the highly anticipated Glen Abbey Encore Grand Opening involving six builders and scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 21.)

Quality of life is really what new home development should be all about, better yet if a site like Riverside Paris can use some of existing amenities of a former golf course such as trails and pathways, and make them available to new home residents and the public in general.

There is a huge appetite for more housing and healthy lifestyles — particularly baby boomers who might be looking to downsize or young families wanting to buy their first home — and on so many fronts, small towns like Paris are uniquely able to offer.